

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Cyperus distinctus - marshland flatsedge Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G4

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: FL, GA, LA, SC

Recognition:

- A stout perennial flatsedge with glabrous, round stems, 40 to 60 cm tall
- Inflorescence of hemispheric heads on 5 to 9 stalks (= rays)
- Achenes three angled, the body linear oblong, about 1.5 to 2 mm long by 0.2 to 0.4 mm wide; achenes perched atop a minute stipe (stalk)
- Achenes narrowed toward the base then becoming swollen with spongy bases

Flowering Time: July to October

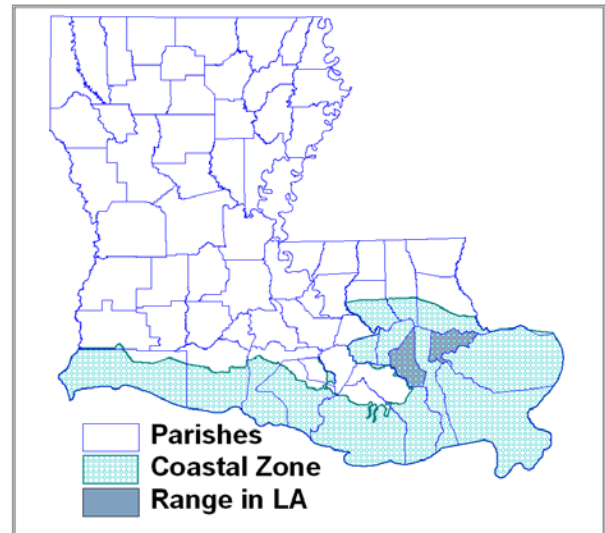
Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

FACW – usually in wetlands

Habitat:

Louisiana has several known occurrences with very little specific habitat data. One occurrence is from the Bonne Carre Spillway in “low wet areas”. Another collection was from a “wet meadow” at Audubon Park in New Orleans. The most recent record is from a wet ditch between US 11 and I-10 in Orleans Parish near Lake Pontchartrain.



Threats:

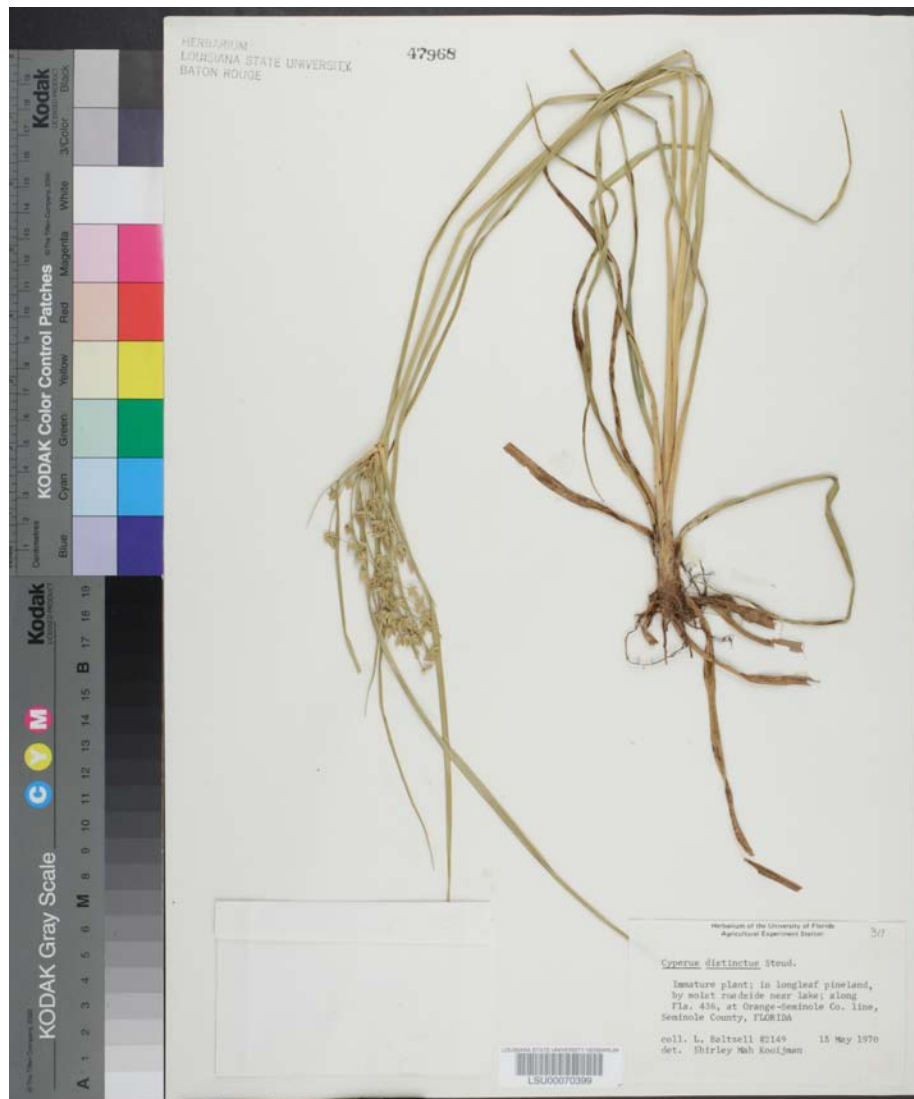
- Very little basic information on status, habitat preference, and associate species in Louisiana

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Needed on-the-ground management actions are unknown
- Review and verify the identification of voucher specimens and conduct field survey work

LA River Basins: Pontchartrain

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Herbarium specimen of *Cyperus distinctus*. Courtesy of LSU Herbarium.

References:

- Clewell, A. F. 1985. Guide to the vascular plants of the Florida Panhandle. University Presses of Florida, Florida State University Press, Tallahassee. 605 pp.
- Godfrey, R. K. and J. W. Wooten. 1981. Aquatic and wetland plants of the southeastern United States: Monocotyledons. University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. 712 pp.
- Tucker, G. C., B. G. Marcks, and J. R. Carter 2002. *Cyperus*. In Flora of North America Committee [eds.], Flora of North America North of Mexico, vol. 23, Magnoliophyta: Commelinidae (in part): Cyperaceae, 141–191. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK
- USDA, NRCS. 2008. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

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